

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration in view of the previous amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 2 and 4 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 3 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and claims 2 and 4 are amended.

The specification is amended to remove references to the claims.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 2,721,641 to Eames. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants' independent claim 2 recites, in combination with other claimed features, a coin insertion device wherein a shutter member is movable along a rotation center line and is biased in a direction for closing a coin discharge opening in one direction on a rotation center line by an elastic member. A holding means holds the shutter in a non-rotatable state when the shutter member is in the state in which the shutter member is biased in one direction on the rotation center line. By contact with a coin inserted from a coin insertion opening with a releasing means the shutter member moves in another direction on the rotation center line against an elasticity of the elastic member whereby a holding means is released and the shutter member is allowed to rotate.

Such features encompass Applicants' exemplary embodiment as illustrated in Fig. 4 wherein the shutter member 30 can move along a rotation center line in the X direction and is controlled by the elastic member 52 in a direction which closes the coin discharge opening 11. When the shutter member 30 is in a state in which it is operated in the X direction on the rotation center line, it is held in a non-rotatable condition by holding means 56. Through contact with a coin C that is inserted from

the coin insertion opening 10 against releasing means 40, the shutter member 30 moves in the opposite direction, the Y direction, on the rotation center line against the elasticity of the elastic member 52. The hold of the holding means 56 is released and the shutter member is allowed to rotate. The shutter member 30 is then pressed by the coin C such that it is enable to open the coin discharge opening 11. The shutter member 30 is configured such that the coin C inserted from the coin insertion opening 10 makes contact with the releasing means 40 before making contact with the opening and closing plate 31. Thus, the shutter member is held in a state in which it keeps the coin discharge opening closed by the holding means. The coin discharge opening will not open even if the shutter member is pushed with an object other than a coin, such as a stick. The shutter member also acts as a coin selector.

The Eames patent discloses a coin slot 17 normally closed by a door 18 that is yieldably pressed against the coin slot from the inside of the housing. The door 18 is pivotally supported between bifurcated arms at a door supporting strut 19. The pivotal mounting of door 18 permits the door to fit flush against the housing and permits the door 18 to assume a directly opposed position relative to a coin that is inserted in the coin slot. The door supporting strut 19 is pivoted at 20 on an actuator lever 21. The actuator lever 21 is in turn pivoted on the chassis plate 15 at 22 and is resiliently urged in a door closing direction by an actuator spring 23. Upon insertion of a coin in the coin slot 17 the door is forced inward by the pressure exerted against the coin. The door and the door supporting strut do not move in a direction along a rotation center line as in Applicants' amended independent claim 2. Thus, claim 2 is distinguishable over the Eames patent.

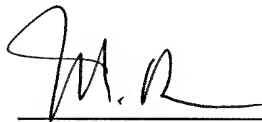
Dependent claim 4 is allowable for at least the reasons discussed above as well as for its dependence on independent claim 2.

Early and favorable action with respect to this application is respectfully requested.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application or should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference with the undersigned would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application, the undersigned respectfully requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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